



SC Department of Employment and Workforce

NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release:
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South Carolina's Employment Situation May 2011

Unemployment rate ticks up slightly; Job gains still seen in several sectors

South Carolina's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate increased from 9.8 percent in April to 10.0 percent in May, similar to the national rate increase from 9.0 percent in April to 9.1 percent in May.

A slight uptick in unemployment is typical for this time of year as college and high school graduates enter the labor pool, and more people seek seasonal work in tourism-related areas.

Based on the federal survey of households, the state saw a slight movement upward in May's labor force estimates when compared to April. An increase of 2,769 was noted for an overall level of 2,155,120 people in the labor force.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Anderson metro area experienced one of the largest employment percentage gains nationally, from April 2010 to April 2011, with a 5.1 percent increase.

South Carolina's nonfarm payroll employment increased 5,200 in May to a total of 1,833,100 and is the fourth monthly gain in employment since January. It represents a 4.12 percent overall increase since its lowest point in January 2010.

Gains were reflected in four major industry sectors. Leisure and Hospitality enjoyed the largest increase, adding about 6,600 jobs. Trade, Transportation and Utilities boasted a gain of 3,400 jobs, mostly due to seasonal gains in Retail Trade, up 3,000 jobs. Manufacturing showed its fourth monthly increase this year by adding 1,200 jobs, and Financial Activities increased 300 jobs during the month. These gains offset decreases in the Education and Health Services, Government, and Professional and Business Services industry sectors. Online postings of job openings have increased by 1,300 in the last month, as reported by the Conference Board's Help Wanted Online Index, showing that employers are more eager to hire than they were last month.

"Although there was a slight uptick in the unemployment rate, the number of people who found employment has increased steadily for eight of the last nine months, and since May 2010, the estimated percentage of unemployed persons has declined by approximately 10.4 percent," said SC Department of Employment and Workforce Executive Director John Finan. "South Carolina continues to maintain the status of having one of the fastest declining percentages in the Southeast."

The trend of decreasing initial claims for state unemployment benefits continued in May, with only 19,264 claims filed, much less than the high of 84,103 in January 2009. In fact, South Carolina's number of initial claims for May 2011 is lower than all other states in the southeast.

The duration of unemployment payments has also declined in South Carolina, dropping 2.5 weeks from a high of 18.9 weeks in 2010 to 16.4 weeks in 2011. In the Southeast, only Alabama has a shorter duration.

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

Statewide

May 2011

Jobs by Industry	May 2011	April 2011	May 2010	April 2011 to May 2011		May 2010 to May 2011	
				Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Nonfarm Employment	1,833,100	1,827,900	1,828,700	5,200	0.28%	4,400	0.24%
Natural Resources and Mining	4,100	4,100	4,000	0	0.00%	100	2.50%
Construction	76,000	76,700	79,300	-700	-0.91%	-3,300	-4.16%
Manufacturing	213,600	212,400	207,200	1,200	0.56%	6,400	3.09%
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	351,000	347,600	344,100	3,400	0.98%	6,900	2.01%
Information	25,800	25,800	25,500	0	0.00%	300	1.18%
Financial Activities	98,000	97,700	97,800	300	0.31%	200	0.20%
Professional and Business Services	224,000	224,900	213,000	-900	-0.40%	11,000	5.16%
Education and Health Services	216,300	218,700	213,200	-2,400	-1.10%	3,100	1.45%
Leisure and Hospitality	220,600	214,000	215,000	6,600	3.08%	5,600	2.60%
Government	336,500	338,400	360,500	-1,900	-0.56%	-24,000	-6.66%

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT

South Carolina & Metropolitan Areas

May 2011

INDUSTRY TITLE	May 2011	April 2011	May 2010	April 2011 to May 2011		May 2010 to May 2011	
				Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Statewide	1,833,100	1,827,900	1,828,700	5,200	0.28%	4,400	0.24%
Anderson MSA	61,900	62,100	59,600	-200	-0.32%	2,300	3.86%
Charleston/North Charleston MSA	289,900	286,500	286,700	3,400	1.19%	3,200	1.12%
Columbia MSA	344,700	343,600	346,800	1,100	0.32%	-2,100	-0.61%
Florence MSA	82,700	82,400	82,800	300	0.36%	-100	-0.12%
Greenville MSA	297,900	297,900	297,900	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Myrtle Beach/Conway/N. Myrtle Beach MSA	123,000	119,700	118,100	3,300	2.76%	4,900	4.15%
Spartanburg MSA	117,800	118,900	117,300	-1,100	-0.93%	500	0.43%
Sumter MSA	37,500	37,700	37,200	-200	-0.53%	300	0.81%

Note: Employment estimates have been rounded to the nearest hundred. Sum of detail may not equal totals due to rounding or the exclusion of certain industries from publication. All data are subject to revision.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS BY COUNTY, MSA, AND STATE
(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)

AREA	May 2011				April 2011				May 2010			
	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT		LABOR FORCE	EMPLOY- MENT	UNEMPLOYMENT	
			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)			LEVEL	RATE (%)
Marion County	12,413	10,049	2,364	19.0	12,333	10,045	2,288	18.6	12,714	10,222	2,492	19.6
Allendale County	3,313	2,704	609	18.4	3,230	2,716	514	15.9	3,355	2,737	618	18.4
Marlboro County	11,467	9,482	1,985	17.3	11,542	9,559	1,983	17.2	12,040	9,665	2,375	19.7
Chester County	14,564	12,199	2,365	16.2	14,497	12,242	2,255	15.6	15,071	12,364	2,707	18.0
Union County	11,156	9,356	1,800	16.1	11,103	9,424	1,679	15.1	11,448	9,403	2,045	17.9
Barnwell County	8,597	7,278	1,319	15.3	8,569	7,322	1,247	14.6	8,872	7,380	1,492	16.8
McCormick County	3,312	2,815	497	15.0	3,321	2,843	478	14.4	3,409	2,911	498	14.6
Dillon County	13,561	11,573	1,988	14.7	13,576	11,661	1,915	14.1	13,760	11,599	2,161	15.7
Clarendon County	12,877	10,997	1,880	14.6	12,800	11,046	1,754	13.7	12,947	11,113	1,834	14.2
Bamberg County	6,296	5,399	897	14.2	6,243	5,443	800	12.8	6,477	5,525	952	14.7
Lancaster County	30,162	25,903	4,259	14.1	30,161	25,985	4,176	13.8	31,082	26,102	4,980	16.0
Orangeburg County	40,084	34,457	5,627	14.0	39,899	34,693	5,206	13.0	41,477	35,760	5,717	13.8
Hampton County	7,965	6,862	1,103	13.8	7,896	6,889	1,007	12.8	7,953	6,903	1,050	13.2
Lee County	8,210	7,112	1,098	13.4	8,177	7,168	1,009	12.3	8,360	7,260	1,100	13.2
Cherokee County	24,514	21,243	3,271	13.3	24,459	21,366	3,093	12.6	25,062	21,505	3,557	14.2
Colleton County	17,633	15,327	2,306	13.1	17,414	15,336	2,078	11.9	17,398	15,216	2,182	12.5
Williamsburg County	15,925	13,840	2,085	13.1	15,782	13,852	1,930	12.2	16,034	13,901	2,133	13.3
Chesterfield County	18,425	16,028	2,397	13.0	18,416	16,074	2,342	12.7	19,132	16,176	2,956	15.5
York County	113,316	98,833	14,483	12.8	114,244	98,741	15,503	13.6	116,363	98,636	17,727	15.2
Fairfield County	10,760	9,441	1,319	12.3	10,715	9,431	1,284	12.0	10,932	9,514	1,418	13.0
Darlington County	30,899	27,147	3,752	12.1	30,571	27,210	3,361	11.0	31,010	27,319	3,691	11.9
Abbeville County	10,872	9,597	1,275	11.7	10,820	9,636	1,184	10.9	11,156	9,759	1,397	12.5
Greenwood County	30,524	26,971	3,553	11.6	30,313	27,083	3,230	10.7	30,911	27,333	3,578	11.6
Calhoun County	6,703	5,933	770	11.5	6,635	5,927	708	10.7	6,682	5,979	703	10.5
Sumter MSA	45,848	40,613	5,235	11.4	45,670	40,951	4,719	10.3	45,782	40,533	5,249	11.5
Florence County	63,798	56,787	7,011	11.0	63,448	56,920	6,528	10.3	63,994	57,149	6,845	10.7
Georgetown County	30,524	27,244	3,280	10.7	30,285	27,171	3,114	10.3	30,751	27,223	3,528	11.5
Laurens County	32,217	28,843	3,374	10.5	31,991	28,888	3,103	9.7	32,349	28,820	3,529	10.9
Spartanburg MSA	134,488	120,382	14,106	10.5	134,363	121,541	12,822	9.5	135,093	120,187	14,906	11.0
Horry/Myr Bch MSA	137,856	123,533	14,323	10.4	134,717	120,996	13,721	10.2	134,047	119,461	14,586	10.9
Newberry County	18,121	16,249	1,872	10.3	18,093	16,363	1,730	9.6	18,598	16,684	1,914	10.3
Oconee County	30,905	27,722	3,183	10.3	30,705	27,817	2,888	9.4	31,353	27,818	3,535	11.3
Anderson MSA	86,895	78,408	8,487	9.8	86,347	78,638	7,709	8.9	85,658	76,393	9,265	10.8
Jasper County	10,423	9,425	998	9.6	10,398	9,443	955	9.2	10,165	9,214	951	9.4
Berkeley County	82,448	74,624	7,824	9.5	81,010	73,874	7,136	8.8	81,672	73,932	7,740	9.5
Richland County	181,176	164,080	17,096	9.4	178,588	163,897	14,691	8.2	182,480	165,347	17,133	9.4
Saluda County	8,972	8,155	817	9.1	8,870	8,146	724	8.2	9,037	8,218	819	9.1
Kershaw County	29,494	26,853	2,641	9.0	29,379	26,824	2,555	8.7	29,980	27,061	2,919	9.7
Pickens County	57,129	52,001	5,128	9.0	56,560	52,082	4,478	7.9	57,401	51,960	5,441	9.5
Edgefield County	11,080	10,098	982	8.9	11,150	10,191	959	8.6	11,214	10,266	948	8.5
Dorchester County	65,323	59,734	5,589	8.6	64,170	59,133	5,037	7.8	64,760	59,179	5,581	8.6
Beaufort County	65,305	59,751	5,554	8.5	64,772	59,872	4,900	7.6	63,646	58,420	5,226	8.2
Charleston County	178,815	163,677	15,138	8.5	175,425	162,030	13,395	7.6	177,609	162,157	15,452	8.7
Greenville County	224,465	205,282	19,183	8.5	222,825	205,602	17,223	7.7	225,812	205,121	20,691	9.2
Lexington County	133,596	122,936	10,660	8.0	132,419	122,800	9,619	7.3	134,099	123,886	10,213	7.6
Aiken County	76,147	70,134	6,013	7.9	77,145	70,781	6,364	8.2	77,206	71,301	5,905	7.6
Charleston MSA	326,586	298,035	28,551	8.7	320,605	295,037	25,568	8.0	324,041	295,268	28,773	8.9
Columbia MSA	370,702	337,399	33,303	9.0	366,605	337,024	29,581	8.1	373,210	340,005	33,205	8.9
Florence MSA	94,697	83,934	10,763	11.4	94,019	84,130	9,889	10.5	95,004	84,468	10,536	11.1
Greenville MSA	313,811	286,125	27,686	8.8	311,376	286,572	24,804	8.0	315,563	285,901	29,662	9.4
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED												
South Carolina	2,155,120	1,939,782	215,338	10.0	2,152,351	1,942,368	209,983	9.8	2,165,254	1,923,744	241,510	11.2

Current month's estimates are preliminary.

County and single-county MSA's are sorted by current month's unemployment rate in descending order.